Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation in Maharashtra

2460. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any Central Scheme for the promotion of agricultural mechanisation among small farmers in Maharashtra, particularly in Vidarbha region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many small farmers were benefited therefrom during the last three years, year-wise and district-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to popularise the scheme in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) There is no separate scheme for the State of Maharashtra. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation among Small Farmers', has been under implementation since 1992-93 in the country, including Maharashtra, and Vidarbha region. The Scheme envisages the provision of subsidy to the farmer, registered cooperative societies, etc. at the rate of 30% limited to Rs. 30,000/-, for the purchase of tractors upto 30 Power-Take-Off Horse Power; together with matching implements. Till 1994-95, the subsidy, under the scheme, was available to the farmers having perennially irrigated land holdings between 6 and 8 acres; or equivalent. However, since 1995-96, the subsidy benefits, under the Scheme, have been extended to all categories of farmers.

(c) As the subsidy benefits, under the Scheme, have been extended to all categories of farmers since 1995-96, the data regarding the number of small farmers having been benefited thereunder, during the last three years, have not been maintained by the State of Maharashtra.

(d) The Scheme has been made popular in the State of Maharashtra by associating Zila Parishad in the selection of beneficiaries and tie up with the banking institutions to provide loans for the agricultural mechanisation.

Production of sunflower seed in Maharashtra

2461. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the per hectare average production of sunflower seed in Maharashtra at present;

(b) whether the State has the potential to grow sunflower seed in very large quantities which can solve the edible oil problem but the potential is going waste due to apathy of Central and State Governments; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase the production of sunflower seed in Maharashtra in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The per hectare average production of sunflower seed in Maharashtra for the year 1997-98 is 754 kgs.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In view of fluctuation in area under sunflower in last four years which ranged between 3.70 and 5.38 lakh ha., the State of Maharashtra has only marginal potential for increase in area which cannot solve the edible oil problem. However, both the Central and the State Government are taking necessary steps for increasing the area Production Programme under which financial assistance is provided to the farmers on distribution of quality seed, improved farm implements,

integrated pest management and sprinkler sets for bringing more area under irrigation.

दुधारू पशुओं के लिए चारे की उपलब्धता

2462. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या उड़ीसा, गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश सहित देश में दूध देने वाले पशुओं के लिए पर्याप्त मात्रा में चारा उपलब्ध नहीं है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो चारे की राज्यवार वार्षिक आवश्यकता कितनी-कितनी है तथा वर्तमान में इसकी कितनी मात्रा वास्तव में उपलब्ध है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने चारे की बढ़ती आवश्यकता को देखते हुए इसकी पर्याप्त आपूर्ति सुनिश्चित करने हेतु अतिरिक्त भूमि पर चारे के उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय पशु चारा बैंक स्थापित करने के लिए कोई निर्णय लिया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सोम पाल): (क) और (ख) देश में सूखे चारे तथा हरे चारे की उपलब्धता, आवश्यकता से कम आंकी गई है। इसलिए देश में चारे की कमी है। तीन राज्यों में स्थिति इस प्रकार है:—

	आवश्यकता	उपलब्धता (मिलियन टन)
1. गुजरात	30.50	26.00
हरा चारा	13.20	9.60
सूखा चारा		
2. उड़ीसा	124.39	2.65
हरा चारा	15.61	11.75
सूखा चारा		
3. मध्य प्रदेश	87.60	अनुमानित नहीं
हरा चारा	68.20	अनुमानित नहीं
सूखा चारा		

(ग) और (घ) ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Compensation to Farmers of Maharashtra

2463. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Government to compensate the farmers of the State for damages caused by hailstorm in the State;

(b) if so, whether any Central team has been sent to Maharashtra to assess the damage to crops and;

(c) if not, whether it will be sent now, as the State Government is in financial difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra had indicated that the losses due to hailstorms and untimely rains during January to March, 1998 was Rs. 40.57 crores.

(b) and (c) No Memorandum indicating the extent of damage due to hailstorm has so far been received from the Government of Maharashtra. Deputation of a Central Team for making an assessment of the situation will be considered only after receipt of the Memorandum from the State Government.

Death due to Cyclone

2464. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died, injured and missing in the cyclone ravaged areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) what is the total loss of crops in each State due to this cyclone;

(c) whether any Central team has visited the cyclone affected areas; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of relief and rescue operations so far given to the affected people in each State?